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[54] **DATA PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS**

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[52] U.S. Cl. **395/326**; 395/358; 345/173; 345/179; 382/187
[58] **Field of Search** 395/326, 340, 395/347, 352, 353, 358; 345/179, 173; 382/159, 160, 186, 187, 202, 209

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A data processing method and apparatus, in which gestures and other characters or figures are discriminatively recognized even in an area for handwritten characters, in which effective gestures are defined in any input areas, and in which various gestures are recognized by using a simple method and means to enable reducing a load to the apparatus. The method and apparatus can be realized by using a small size device. Further, in the method and apparatus, kinds of commands to be selected by using a stylus are recognized in accordance with touches, moves, and halts of the stylus, or successive rules related to the states of the stylus.

8 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets